

REMARKS

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-3, and 7-11 have been canceled, and new claims 19-34 have been added as indicated above. The new claims are supported by the written specification, including previous claims now canceled, as well as figures 3 and 4.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. 101:

Claims 1-3, and 7-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. Claims 1-3, and 7-11 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejections of those claims under 35 U.S.C. 101 are now moot.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. 103:

Claims 1-3, and 7-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,134,568 to Tonkin in view of EP 0621563 A1. Claims 1-3, and 7-11 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejections of those claims under U.S.C. 103 are now moot.

New Claims:

The Applicant believes that claims 19-34, which have been added as indicated herein above, meet the standards for allowability, including the standards set forth under 35 U.S.C. 101, 35 U.S.C. 102, and 35 U.S.C. 103, and that the claims are allowable in view of the cited references.

Period for Reply:

The shortened statutory period for reply for this response was set at 3 months from the mailing date of the Office action, which is July 23, 2004. Because October 23, 2004 is a Saturday, the statutory period for reply is the next business day, which is October 25, 2004. 37 C.F.R. 1.7.

SUMMARY

The Applicant believes that this communication is fully responsive to the Office action mailed 07-23-04, and the Applicant furthermore requests timely allowance of claims 19-34. The below-signed attorney respectfully requests that, in the event that the next Office action is anything other than a Notice of Allowance for claims 19-34, the Examiner call him before issuing the action.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl S. Chow

By

Thomas A. Olson

Attorney and agent for Applicant

Reg. No. 44,271

Phone: (509) 327-4748

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